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DPRK Seeks Negotiated Solution of Reunification: President Kim

By Kim Jong Myong
PK Staff Reporter

President Kim Il Sung said his government maintains the stand that the reunification question should be solved in a peaceful way through dialogue and negotiation.

"We do not want war, but try every possible means to solve the problem of national reunification in a peaceful way," said President Kim.

He also stated that Pyongyang has neither intention nor ability to "invade south Korea."

"On a number of occasions we have declared that we have no intention to 'invade the south' or 'communize' south Korea," stressed Mr. Kim.

He made these remarks in an interview with Mr. Yasui Ryosuke, managing editor of the Japanese politico-theoretical magazine "Sekai" (world). The Sekai magazine carried the presidential interview in its August issue.

(See the full text of the interview on pages 2, 3, 4 & 5)

In the interview, the Korean leader expressed his firm resolve to reunify the country in a peaceful manner.

Touching upon his personal feelings about the 40-year division of the country, the President stated:

"Not a single day has passed during the forty years since the country's liberation to this date, without the fact of the country's partition weighing on my mind, and without my thinking of relieving our people from their sufferings of national division."

"We must reunify the country during our lifetime, come what may. We are making every effort in this direction. If the country is not reunified in our generation, it will surely be reunified in the era of Kim Jong Il who will continue to fight by carrying forward the cause," he added.

In the past, the DPRK President has declared many a time that his country would neither invade south Korea nor would impose a socialist system on south Korea. And yet the south Koreans and Americans have argued that "Pyongyang is ready to invade south Korea" or "It still adopts the policy of communizing the whole peninsula."

In the interview Mr. President flatly denied these allegations.

"The Americans and the south Korean authorities are saying that we are going to 'invade the south'. This is a trick aimed to justify their scheme to divide our country. We neither intend to 'invade the south' nor are we capable of doing so. On a number of occasions we have declared that we have no intention to 'invade the south' or 'communize south Korea.' At the Sixth Congress of our party we put forward the specific programme of setting up a confederal republic with

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1st, 2nd N.-S. Red Cross Working-Level Talks Held

The second north-south Korean Red Cross working-level meeting was held on July 19 at the truce village of Panmunjom. (Kyodo)

By Li Chol Won
PK Staff Reporter

No agreement was reached at the second round of working-level talks between the north-south Red Cross organizations held on July 19 at the truce village of Panmunjom in the Demiliterized Zone.

In the second meeting lasting 97 minutes behind a closed door, they failed to reach an agreement on places to be visited, the size of art performers and exact dates for the exchange, though they agreed at the July 15 first meeting to have the first exchange visits consisting of 300 home-visitors in September.

The southerners insisted that visitors' hometowns be included into the destinations of mutual visits, while the northerners wanted both Pyongyang and Seoul to be the places.

It is irrational for south Koreans to insist on places to be visited as an important thing is to let dispersed families meet again and to alleviate their pains caused by the land's partition for 4 decades, not to decide the mere places to be visited by each side.

After the contact, Pak Yong Su, delegate of the DPRK side, spoke at a press conference at Panmunjom:

"But our close study of the proposal made by the south Korean side at the last contact leaves us no alternative but to regard it as a unilateral proposal ignoring the principle of impartiality which must be abided by in bilateral talks".

The next working-level session will be made after the date is set through consultations by telephone.

At the first round of the working-level contact between the north-south Red Cross organizations held on July 15, delegates from the two parts of

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Court Pandemonium Puts Off Trial on USIS Seizure

The first hearing at a Seoul court on July 15 on 22 students charged with seizing an American library was messed up by them and their families and supporters present on the gallery as observers, and the pandemonium led to the dismissal of the justice minister by Gen. Chon Du Hwan.

After a forced five-hour recess, the Seoul District Criminal Court, failing to proceed with its first session, was compelled to postpone the hearing for two weeks.

The student defendants were leading protesters who had led the sit-in in the library of the U.S. Information Service building in downtown Seoul May 23-26, calling on the U.S. to apologize for the Kwangju Incident, on the fifth anniversary of the uprising in which over 2,000 innocent citizens were killed by martial law combat troops.

One of 20 student defendants shouting anti-"government" slogans is taken into the court.

The pandemonium began when the student defendants led by Kim Min Sok, Chairman of the National Federation of Student Associations, were conducted into the courtroom on the morning of July 15.

Once inside the courtroom, the 20 students chorused anti-Chon and anti-American slogans, "Down with the military dictatorship" and "The United States, apologize for the Kwangju Incident."

More than 200 family members and fellow students in the gallery joined them and sang dissident songs in chorus together with them.

Presiding judge Li Chae Hun with a three-judge panel, faced with the unexpected pandemonium, went out of the room.

The judges entered there again at 10:10 a.m. only to hear tough protests, "Who is the real criminal?" and so on.

The confusion in the courtroom did not stop even after a recess of the hearing untill 3 p.m. was declared by the judge.

In the after session resumed, the turmoil was far from over, but rather escalated, making the courtroom more chaotic.

Defendants' family members and others wore headbands with red-ink-

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Castro on Seoul Olympics

Fidel Castro, President of the State Council and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, in an interview with U.S. senator Nervyn Dymally and Academic Jeffrey Elliot, said the decision to hold the 1988 Olympics in Seoul was "sectarian, it didn't help to unite but to divide, not to heal wounds but to open them," according to Prensa Latina July 10.

The Cuban news agency quoted him as saying:

If there was no security in Los Angeles it is difficult to argue that there can be security in Seoul under a bloody, repressive "regime," a regime which is an exact replica of pinochet's or which was copied exactly by pinochet from south Korea.

He predicted that to go ahead with the 1988 games as planned would create very serious problems in the Olympic movement.

The news agency said Cuba has decided not to attend the games, it was revealed in a handout to delegates at the Fourth Latin American Journalists Congress held in Havana on July 8.

According to AFP July 9, Fidel Castro told the Fourth Latin American Journalists Congrss held in Havana on July 8 that "the selection of Seoul was politically the same as staging the games on the naval base at Guantanamo, territory on the south coast of Cuba."

"There is only one Korea and it is imperialism which keeps it divided. Can we forget?" He said. "Are we going to betray our principles for a few gold medals?"

Meanwhile, Fidel Castro renewed his proposal, made in a letter to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch last November, that half the Olympic events should be held in south Korea and the other half in the north, AFP recalled.

(KCNA)

Greeting the 40th Anniversary of Korea's Liberation

Presidential Interview with Managing Editor of Sekai (June 9, 1985)

President Kim Il Sung gave answers on June 9, 1985, to the questions raised by the managing editor of the Japanese politico-theoretical magazine Sekai.

Follows the full text of the answers (Subtitles are ours ..... Ed.):

I am very pleased with your revisit to our country after a long time.

Your visit to our country is an expression of deep trust and friendship for the Korean people. I warmly welcome your visit to our country.

I would also like to express my thanks to the Representative Director of the Iwanami Publishing House in Japan for his letter addressed to me. Upon your return, I wish you to convey my greetings to him.

I have received your questionnaire in writing.

You have asked many questions. I would like to answer them generally for convenience's sake.

Americans Greatest Obstacles to Reunification

I will first refer to the dialogue between north and south Korea and the reunification question.

First of all, I extend my gratitude to you for the active efforts you are making for Korea's reunification with a deep interest in it.

Reunifying the country is the supreme national desire and the most urgent fighting task for our people who have suffered from national division for forty years since liberation.

However, the achievement of our country's reunification is a very difficult problem.

The occupation of half of our territory by the Americans is the greatest obstacle to reunification. It is a big trouble that the Americans are meddling in the question of our country's reunification.

Our stand is to reunify the country to make it one Korea. On the contrary, the Americans resort to the strategy of fixing the division and having "two Koreas".

To divide and rule is the stereotyped method employed by the imperialists.

In ancient times a Chinese called Zang Guofan used the phrase "yi yi zhi yi". This means setting a thief to catch a thief. The imperialists are now employing the same method. The Americans oppose the European countries by dint of Europeans, and are attempting to control the Arab countries by using Arab countries.

They are pursuing this policy in Asia, too. They are trying to put Asian countries under their control by making use of Japan and some other countries which are their stooges. As for Korea, they seek to control it by making Koreans fight among themselves. They intend to rule Korea by dividing it.

When reunified, Korea will be a large country. Its population exceeds 50 million and it abounds in natural resources. When it is reunified, our country will be one of the prosperous countries in the world.

The United States badly needs south Korea as a military base. The Americans regard south Korea as a nice lump of fat and will not let it go. It is just the same as a wolf would not let a tasty piece of fat go, once it holds it in its month.

It is very difficult to reunify our country because the Americans would not let south Korea go, keeping a firm hold on it like a lump of fat.

The United States does not permit south Korea freeing itself from its control and subjugation and following an independent road.

At the moment the democrats and other south Korean people are fighting for democracy of south Korean society. This struggle can be regarded as the first phase of the struggle for independence. If democracy is achieved in south Korea, the people there will call for independence all the more. The Americans are afraid of this happening.

Attainment of independence in south Korea immediately means emancipation from U.S. control and subordination. For this reason, the United States opposes democracy and independence of south Korean society and supports and covers the south Korean authorities in repressing the people's struggle for democracy. As long as the U.S. troops stay in south Korea, neither genuine democracy nor independence can be attained there.

Our people cannot live divided into "two Koreas" for ever as the Americans would like to see it, nor can they tolerate the United States keeping to hold south Korea as its military base and colony. This would mean dividing our nation into two for ever and leaving south Korea under the complete rule of the United States. If we tolerate our country becoming "two Koreas" we will commit a crime before history.

The steadfast stand of our party and the government of the Republic is to reunify the north and the south into one rejecting all sorts of schemes to divide our country into "two Koreas" for ever, and attain the country's reunification in a peaceful way. We do not want war, but try every possible means to solve the problem of national reunification in a peaceful way.

The Americans and the south Korean authorities are saying that we are going to "invade the south". This is a trick aimed to justify their scheme to divide our country. We neither intend to "invade the south" nor are we capable of doing so. On a number of occasions we have declared that we have no intention to "invade the south" or "communize" south Korea. At the Sixth Congress of our party we put foward the specific programme of setting up a confederal republic with the two social systems of the north and the south coexisting, as a most reasonable way of achieving peaceful reunification.

Proceeding from the national desire of our people and with a lofty sense of the mission which they assume for the mankind's cause of peace, our party and the government of the Republic maintain the stand to solve the reunification question in a peaceful way through dialogues and negotiations. Only when the north and the south have contacts and hold talks, can they dispel mutual misunderstanding and distrust, deepen understanding and trust, improve the relations between them which are in confrontation and find out a reasonable way for peaceful reunification.

Our party and the government of the Republic are doing everything in their power to settle the reunification question through dialogues and negotiations.

As you know, last year our compatriotic measure was put into effect successfully for the first time since the division of the country, amid the great concern of our nation and the world's people – our relief goods were sent to the south Korean flood victims. This provided an important occasion in making a breakthrough in the long-standing barrier between the north and the south and creating the atmosphere of contacts and dialogues. Availing ourselves of the good atmosphere, which was created between the north and the south, of helping and receiving help from each other, we took an initiative in sponsoring north-south economic talks and also proposed the resumption of Red Cross talks, proceeding from our lofty aim to improve the relations between the north and the south. As a result, economic talks began between the north and the south and the Red Cross talks which had been in suspension for twelve years, reopened.

Now on the north-south economic talks. At the talks we proposed to effect economic cooperation and exchange between the north and the south.

As far back as 1972, we told the south Korean representatives who came to Pyongyang to take part in the north-south high-level political talks, about our specific plan on materializing many-sided cooperation and interchange between the north and the south. First, at that time I proposed that the north and the south jointly exploit the underground resources in the northern half of the Republic. I told them: You sell workers to countries like West Germany and Brazil because there are many unemployed in south Korea. Do not do that, but send them to us. The northern half of the Republic abounds in underground resources. Let us exploit them jointly, you contributing manpower and we providing equipment. Secondly, I proposed that the north and the south collaborate in the field of agriculture. I told the south Korean representatives: You are said to receive loans from Japan to launch a "new village movement" for the sake of the peasants. You cannot solve the fundamental problem by carrying out the kind of a "new village movement" which is confined merely to replacing the thatched roofs. If you are to make the south Korean peasants well-off, you must undertake irrigation projects so that they will do a good farming. We have rich experience in irrigation. Therefore, we can go to south Korea and help you in undertaking irrigation projects. Thirdly, I suggested that the north and the south cooperate in the field of fisheries. I told them: The fishing ground off our East Sea abound in fish because the cold and warm currents meet there. In winter many cold-water fish swarm there and in summer a large number of warm-water fish gather there. Let the south Korean fishermen catch fish in our fishing grounds.

When they heard us out, the south Korean representatives said that our proposal on effecting cooperation between the north and the south was a very good one. They added that if they reported about it upon their return, Pak Jung Hi would also welcome it.

After that we waited a positive answer from the south Korean side. However, there was no reply after one month and even after two months. I think that a long time had passed probably because they visited the Americans to ask about their opinion. There was reply from the south Korean side only after a lapse of some three or four months. They suggested refraining from doing anything that we had proposed, but instead proposed to build a hotel in Mt. Kumgang and run Kisaeng tourism jointly. We did not reply them because their proposal was so disgusting and ignominious.

At the recent economic talks our side proposed that the north and the south cooperate in line with what we had proposed on the previous occasion. However, the south Korean side suggested that the north and the south should confine only to trade, considering the north-south economic talks to be something like talks between the delegations of trading companies. Their attitude cannot be regarded as aiming to promote the interests of both sides by effecting economic cooperation between the north and the south in the true sense of the word. It cannot be considered otherwise than a scheme to delay the talks.

Some time ago the eighth round of the north-south Red Cross talks was held in Seoul. At the talks our side proposed to the south Korean side to discuss in a package the five questions already agreed upon between the two sides and realize free visits of separated families and relatives, the most primary problem in resolving them. When free visits become a reality between the north and the south, the families and relatives who are separated in the two parts of the country, will be able to exchange letters, find out their kith and kin and meet each other. Although the south Korean side made clear its stand at the recent talks that it agreed in

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principle to our above-mentioned proposal, we must wait and see how they will act in future.

This year we have put forward a new peace proposal in order to ease tensions in the Korean Peninsula, preserve peace and create the preconditions for peaceful national reunification. Our proposal is to open north-south parliamentary talks and make public a joint declaration on non-aggression.

North-south parliamentary talks are authoritative political talks which are capable of canvassing the widespread opinions of the people of all classes and social levels in the north and the south and various political parties and social organizations and adopting effective measures for preserving peace in our country and achieving national reunification. When the north-south parliamentary talks are materialized, they will favourably affect the north-south economic talks and the Red Cross talks, and, furthermore, will bring about high-level political talks.

The party and the government of the Republic will not spare no make every sincere effort to bring about a good success of the economic and Red Cross talks between the north and the south which have been realized at great pains, but also work hard to achieve north-south parliamentary talks as soon as possible.

You have asked if you can consider that there will be north-south summit talks after such negotiations. In the New Year address this year we made clear the stand that if the dialogues between north and south which had already started would proceed successfully to meet the expectations of the people and in accordance with the idea of national reunification, these would further culminate in high-level political negotiations between the two sides.

No problem can be solved simply because the high authorities of north and south sit face to face, and if this is the case the sitting together will be meaningless. If sitting face to face, they ought to achieve good success in providing a decisive turn in the solution of the reunification question and thus answer the expectations of the whole nation who are aspiring to reunification. To this end, an atmosphere of national reconciliation and trust should be created and mutual understanding promoted through manifold low-level talks between north and south, so as to lay the basis for the establishment of fundamental agreement. This is precisely why we take profound care to ensure that the negotiations on economic affairs and Red Cross talks which have already been started proceed smoothly.

If the dialogues between north and south are to be successful both sides should adopt a fair stand and approach to them.

At present a fundamental difference lies in this regard. We take a stand for national reunification to make one Korea, whereas the south Korean side adopts the stand of following the U.S. policy on "two Koreas". This is proved by the fact that the south Korean authorities chime in with the splittists on the matter of "cross recognition" and "cross contact", and claim the "simultaneous U.N. membership" of "two Koreas".

If both the north and the south approach the dialogues with a good intention and the common stand to reunify the country into one Korea, they will be able to easily reach an agreement on the issues to be discussed and find a practical programme for reunification. However, instead of doing so, if the south Korean side persists in the "two Koreas" policy even in the talks, it will prolong them, avoiding discussion of substantial matters on one excuse or another and only paying lip service. In that case, the negotiations will not attain expected results.

The dialogues between north and south must not be ones for fixing division. They must aim solely at reunification. The north-south negotiations for national reunification should be held strictly on the principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity as clarified in the July 4 north-south joint statement. Proceeding from the just and earnest desire for national reunification, the both sides to negotiations ought to trust and respect each other and make sincere efforts to find community with good faith and magnanimity, setting aside difference.

Success in negotiations between north and south is preconditional on the favourable situation for them.

First of all, activities to aggravate the tension between north and south must be refrained. So long as the tension is aggravated and the danger of war prevails, we cannot have talks in peace and, even if they are held, good results cannot be achieved. It is because the south Korean side staged a large-scale military exercise such as "Team Spirit 85," which rendered a menace to the other side to the negotiations, that economic and Red Cross talks held last year have been in suspension for several months.

In addition, slanderous acts against the other party to negotiations should be abstained and democracy be guaranteed in south Korean society. This alone will enable north and south to have heart-to-heart talks with each other and all the Korean people to participate freely in the settlement of the reunification question.

In order to ease the tension and ensure peace in our country and create basic prerequisites for independent and peaceful national reunification through talks and negotiation, it is imperative to have tripartite talks between the DPRK, and the United States and south Korea.

The United States is the very party which bears a major responsibility in removing the danger of war in the Korean Peninsula and solving the question of reunifying Korea.

The United States has been occupying south Korea for forty years, lording it over there, thereby hampering the reunification of our country. The United States not only stations its huge armies constantly in south Korea but also seizes the prerogative of supreme military command over the south Korean puppet army. It makes a clamour in the U.S. Congress about the fictitious "threat of aggression" from the north, in its attempt to find an excuse for the continued military occupation of south Korea, and carries on a large-scale military exercise every year, worsening the situation in the Korean Peninsula on purpose. It is not we but the United States that makes the situation in this peninsula tenser today, and full responsibility rests with the United States for the fact that the situation in our country is thus driven to the brink of war. The United States is also a belligerent party in the Korean War and a real signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement. Therefore, unless the matters are settled through direct negotiations with the United States, it is impossible to reduce the tension and remove the danger of war in our country, nor is it possible to pave the practical way to peaceful national reunification.

China withdrew her volunteers in the Korean War from our country a long time ago. She is not at all hence a concerned country to the Korean question. South Korea is not a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement. But it is directly responsible for the tension created in our country. From this, the government of our Republic proposed tripartite talks with the south Korean authorities participating in the talks between us and the United States with an equal footing.

When the Armistice Agreement is replaced by a peace agreement to be signed by our Republic and the United States at the tripartite talks and a declaration of non-aggression is adopted between north and south, U.S. troops will be withdrawn from south Korea, the root cause of war eliminated in the Korean Peninsula and bright prospects opened for the solution of the Korean question. Our offer of tripartite talks gives full consideration to the demands made so far by the United States and the south Korean authorities.

There is no reason whatsoever for the United States and the south Korean authorities to reject this offer of ours.

The government of our Republic put forward the problem of tripartite talks last year, called for their convocation by various methods and has been waiting for an affirmative response with the doors of dialogues open.

However, the United States still makes no response to our proposal. If the United States truly wants reunification in Korea, it should approach our tripartite talks proposal in good faith, not with empty talks. We will wait with patience till the United States responds to our proposal.

If the United States agrees to our proposed dialogues and renders a practical help in Korea's reunification, the abnormal Korea-U.S. relations will be improved.

Mankind Stands at Crossroads: War or Peace

Now, I would like to refer to the international situation. The present international situation is very complex and tense. The imperialists' moves of aggression and war are being exacerbated as the days go by and the danger of a new world war, a thermonuclear war, is growing still further.

Imperialists are increasing the armament largely and stepping up the production and deployment of nuclear weapons. They have come up with an unprecedented "star wars" programme in their attempt to expand the arms race even into the outer space. Imperialists are also increasing their military bases everywhere in the world, beefing up their aggressive armed forces and are trying to form a new military bloc.

Because of the imperialists' aggressive moves and nuclear arms buildup, peace and security are being undermined in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America, Southern Africa and other regions of the world and the danger of war is imminent. Under the present situation in which massive nuclear weapons are developed in all parts of the world, a war, in what region it may break out, can soon expand into a world war, a thermonuclear war, outgrowing the regional bounds. Today world peace and security get into danger and mankind stands at the crossroads: war or peace.

Preventing war and safeguarding peace is a solemn demand dictated by the times and the unanimous aspirations of mankind.

People oppose war and demand peace. All people, be in developed capitalist countries or in developing countries, are opposed to a nuclear war.

If one values peace, he should not turn his face away from the solemn demand of the times but resolutely fight to remove the danger of a nuclear war from the globe and safeguard world peace.

Today the increasing danger of a new world war, a thermonuclear war, can be no reason to be in despair. War is in no way inevitable.

Imperialists cannot make free use of nuclear weapons. Nuclear arms are not an exclusive property. That is why the imperialists are afraid of them even though intensifying arms race sharply to gain "nuclear supremacy".

And more and more countries do not follow the line of war. The developed capitalist countries, too, take the path to independence, instead of being servile to the United States. At the summit conference of the seven Western countries held some time ago in Bonn, West Germany, Reagan's "star wars" programme was not accepted by all. This means that the former are not following the latter blindly. The contradictions between the United States and its allies are growing because the developed capitalist countries are trying to become independent.

The government of New Zealand has forbidden U.S. nuclear warships' call at its ports since last summer. This is virtually a disorganization of ANZUS.

I think nuclear war can be prevented through effective struggles because there are contradictions between the United States and its allies and the anti-imperialist peace forces in the world are growing in strength.

In order to remove the danger of another world war, a thermonuclear war, and safeguard world peace, the imperialists' arms race must be checked.

Arms race is the main factor for increasing the international tension and the danger of a thermonuclear war.

The anti-war, anti-nuclear peace movement being waged vigorously at present in Asia and Europe and in many other areas of the world is dealing a heavy blow at the imperialists' manoeuvres for nuclear arms expansion. The peace-loving people the world over must pool their efforts to disclose and denounce these manoeuvres, hold the nuclear arms race in check and prevent the plot to militarize the outer space.

In order to remove the danger of a nuclear war for good and all, nuclear arms must be completely abolished. At present the nuclear weapons stockpiled on the globe are massive enough to endanger the existence of mankind and its civilization itself. As long as the nuclear arms are in existence on the earth, the danger of a nuclear war will not be removed nor will human beings be free from the constant nuclear danger. Therefore, the existing nuclear armory must be frozen, nuclear arms be reduced sharply and, further, abolished completely.

If we are to ease the tense international situation and prevent another world war, it is necessary to establish nuclear-free, peace zones in many parts of the world and expand them steadily. This is the way to check the test, production, stockpile and deployment of nuclear weapons and, in the end, to do away with all of them.

Today, Northeast Asia including the Korean Peninsula is the most dangerous area where a nuclear war is likely to break out. The United States further forces its aggressive armed forces in and around south Korea which is strategically important, and brings in nuclear weapons and various other up-to-date war media on a large scale. At the same time the United States frequently stages large-scale war exercises in this region in order to complete preparations for nuclear war. In the southern half of our country more than 40,000 U.S. troops armed with the latest lethal weapons and the puppet army nearly one million strong are constantly ready for action, and more than 1,000 nuclear weapons of different types are deployed.

In order to eliminate the danger of thermonuclear war in the Korean Peninsula and other Northeast Asian regions, a nuclear-free, peace zone must be established in this part of the world. To this end, nuclear weapons deployed in and around the Korean Peninsula must be withdrawn and destroyed, and in this area the testing, manufacture, stockpile, introduction and use of nuclear weapons must be banned completely. In addition, it is necessary to withdraw foreign military bases and foreign troops deployed against the will of the people in this area, abolish military blocs designed for aggression and frustrate any attempt to form new military blocs.

I think that the establishment of a nuclear-free, peace zone in the Korean Peninsula and other Northeast Asian regions accords with the interests not only of the Korean and Japanese people but also of the peoples of Asian and Pacific regions and further, or the people throughout the world.

Our people will, in close unity with the Japanese people, work hard to convert the Korean Peninsula and other Northeast Asian regions into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

We will also give active support to the world's people in their struggle to set up nuclear-free, peace zones in many parts of the world and to expand them steadily.

In order to prevent a new world war, a thermonuclear war, it is imperative to launch a vigorous campaign to make the whole world independent.

We hope that Japan will become independent. It is important that in Asia Japan is to be independent. That is why I emphasized that to achieve the independence of Japan is a very important matter in international politics, at the banquet given in honour of Chairman Ishibashi Masashi of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Socialist Party on his visit to our country last year.

If Japan refrains from policy of following the United States but adopts an independent policy, the United

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States will not be able to unleash a war in Asia by herself. Then a lasting peace will be maintained in Asia and the people will live in peace, free from war.

I deem it necessary for personages of all walks of life and different political parties in Japan to launch a forceful campaign for her independence. If Japan advances towards independence, no matter who comes in power, she will greatly contribute to the cause of peace for the people.

Since Japan is a large economic power she can maintain her existence without war. War is also disadvantageous to Japan herself. She is an island country and is densely populated. If she enters into war her people may suffer from atomic bombs again.

We expect that Japan will not follow the United States blindly.

If she becomes independent it will also be helpful to the reunification of Korea. Japan cannot be expected to be independent right now, but I think she will advance towards independence gradually.

Now I am going to speak about the problem of Korea-Japan relations.

Japan is our neighbour separated from each other by the sea. It is a good thing that the two neighbouring countries, Korea and Japan, establish friendly relations, and to do this accords with the aspirations and desires of the two peoples and is advantageous to the cause of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

It is our Republic's consistent foreign policy to develop good relations with all countries which respect our sovereignty and are friendly towards our country.

Ever since its foundation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has hoped to establish good neighbourly relations with Japan, too, although her social system is different from ours.

To our regret, however, the Japanese government has treated our country in an unfriendly way from the outset, in collusion with the United States.

The Japanese government has no ground whatsoever to approach our country in an unfriendly manner. We have never conducted a campaign against Japan nor have we made a speech slandering Japan when visiting other countries. But the Japanese government pursues a biased policy towards the north and the south of Korea. It is because she submits to the pressure from the United States.

Prospects for Korea-Japan Relations

Some time ago a delegation from the Japan Socialist Party visited our country. At that time when they met me they asked me about our intentions of having economic dealings with Japan. Now that the Japanese government continues to follow the United States and acts under the pressure from the south Korean reactionaries, the economic exchanges between our country and Japan will not proceed briskly.

We had once ordered a big iron works from Japan, but she rejected our request. It was because the south Korean reactionaries complained that if an iron works was sold to north Korea its national power would increase, seriously threatening them. Since then we have not pinned our hope on Japan with regard to economic dealings.

Even though the Japanese government takes economic sanctions against our country we are surviving by our own efforts.

Because of the unfriendly attitude of the Japanese government towards our country, good neighbourly relations between Korea and Japan have not yet been established.

Our principle governing the relationship between the two countries, Korea and Japan, is clear and invariable. How this relationship will develop depends wholly on the attitude of the Japanese government.

In order to establish friendly relations between the two countries and, further, maintain normal state relations, the Japanese government must give up its hostile policy towards our country and refrain from doing anything detrimental to the reunification of Korea. The Japanese government must not pursue its policy of fixing and perpetuating the division of Korea in step with the U.S. imperialists' "two Koreas" plots, nor must it help the south Korean reactionaries or instigate them to carry out manoeuvres for aggression and war against our Republic. Meanwhile, it must renounce the policy of national discrimination against Koreans in Japan, refrain from infringing upon their human rights, and fully provide them with the inalienable rights as overseas citizens of a sovereign state.

If the Japanese government is to give up its unfriendly attitude towards our country, it must not follow the United States but advance on the road of independence. At present, the Japanese government is hostile and unfriendly towards our country against the will of the Japanese people. The main factor in this is that it does not pursue what is following the U.S. strategy towards Korea. If the Japanese government does not follow the United States and goes its own way, the relations between the two countries will be improved and normalized, and they will become friendly neighbouring countries.

Our people value the friendship and solidarity with the Japanese people and make every effort to develop friendly relations with them. We are developing the visits, contacts and exchanges between the peoples of Korea and Japan, and kindly receive as our friends the Japanese people of all walks of life who visit our country with the feelings of friendship towards our people.

The Japanese people, too, desire the friendship with the Korean people and they are carrying out a widespread solidarity movement to actively support our people's cause of national reunification and the struggle of Koreans in Japan for their democratic national rights. This is a very good thing and a great encouragement to our people fighting for the country's reunification.

Availing myself of this opportunity I should like to express my thanks to the Japanese people of all sections who are actively supporting our people in their struggle for national reunification and are working hard for the friendship with the Korean people.

We hope that in future, too, the Japanese people will support the struggle of our people for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country and the struggle of Koreans in Japan for their democratic national rights and will strive to develop the friendly relations with the Korean people.

Thanks to the joint efforts of the Korean and Japanese peoples their relations of friendship will further develop as days go by.

Improvement of People's Living Standard

Now I will answer your question on the improvement of the living standard of the people and the prospect of economic development in our country.

Our party regards the steady enhancement of the people's standard of living as a supreme principle in its activity. Recently it put forward a policy of carrying on a revolution in light industry and public services in an endeavour to provide the people with more prosperous and civilized lives. In line with this policy a large number of modern light industry factories have been built, and public service establishments are increasing on a large scale in our country. In light industry and other sectors of the national economy, we are making an energetic struggle to increase the output of consumer goods and to raise their quality. Improvement in commodity supply, public catering and other services for the working people is being made day by day. A few years later, all our shops will be full of various commodities of good quality, and our people's material and cultural standards will reach world levels.

The situation in our economy which continues to develop on an independent basis, is good at present, but its future will be still brighter.

Our workers in the economic sector are now making preparations for a new long-term plan. During this new plan period we are going to attain the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction set forth by the Sixth Congress of the party.

These long-term objectives are to produce, in the near future, annually 100,000 million kwh of electricity, 120 million tons of coal, 15 million tons of steel, 1.5 million tons of nonferrous metals, 20 million tons of cement, 7 million tons of chemical fertilizers, 1,500 million metres of fabrics, 5 million tons of seafoods, and 15 million tons of grain and to reclaim 300,000 hectares of tideland within the ten years.

If the ten long-term objectives of socialist economic construction are attained, the decisive conditions for the complete victory of socialism will be created, and our country will proudly take its place among the nations leading the world in economic progress.

The ten objectives of socialist economic construction which we will have to carry out during the new long-term plan period are very difficult and enormous fighting tasks. However, we have the conditions and possibilities of attaining these objectives. We have already built up the firm foundation of an independent national economy and prepared a strong scientific and technical force. The fighting spirit of our working people is also very high. That is why we have no doubt that the ten objectives of socialist economic construction will be attained successfully during the new long-term plan period.

During the new plan period we are going to concentrate efforts in economic construction on giving priority to the mining industry and the railway transport, strengthening power bases and developing science and technology, so as to speed the modernization of the national economy.

In this period we will develop coal and ore mines on a large scale, decisively increase the railway traffic capacity and build many power stations which depend on various power resources with the main stress on the construction of hydroelectric power stations. Furthermore, we will modernize the overall technical equipment of the economy by energetically promoting the work of exploring new scientific fields and of introducing successes of up-to-date science and technology in production. And we will wage a vigorous campaign to reclaim 300,000 hectares of tideland.

It is very important and urgent to undertake the reclamation of tideland in our country where the arable land is limited. At present our grain yield per hectare has reached a very high level. It seems difficult to increase the perhectare yield in future than now. Therefore, if we are to boost grain production drastically, we must expand the area of cultivated land sharply.

If we reclaim 300,000 hectares of tidal stretches and increase the area of cultivated land, we shall be able to reach the goal of 15 million tons of grain. Then, we can supply adequate amounts of food grain to the people and develop the food industry in various ways. It is important to attain self-sufficiency in food. Rice, indeed, means socialism and communism. Solving the people's food problem satisfactorily is the way to succeed in building socialism and communism.

We are now reclaiming the tideland by building embankments along the zero line on the seashore. When we have gained much experience in the future, we shall be able to reclaim 500,000 to one million hectares by walling off the sea towards a greater depth.

The main thing in obtaining the money needed to carry out the new long-term plan is self-reliance.

We shall never bring in foreign capital. An economy which is built on foreign capital is bound to become a dependent economy. The economic independence of a country as well as its political independence is important. If a country is subordinated to another country economically, it will also be subjugated politically.

Our country will not be like south Korea which is under the weight of 50,000 million dollars of debts. It is not interesting to see a "high degree of growth" even by becoming indebted to other countries. We do not want to jump up to a high eminence at a leap in economic construction on the strength of foreign capital. We are going to climb steadily, step by step, by our own efforts.

If we mine and export lead, zinc, copper, gold, silver and other nonferrous metals, the deposits of which are enormous in our country, we shall be able to solve the problem of the funds needed for the new long-term plan by ourselves.

It is true that we are not without any difficulty in economic construction. But it is a difficulty which came about in the course of a great deal of work which we have been doing.

You have visited the place where the Nampo Lock Gate is under construction, so you know that it is a huge project.

We intend to finish it on the whole by October 10 this year. It is not a simple task to finish this colossal project by ourselves in so short a time.

A foreigner who paid a visit to our country some time ago asked why we did not give wide publicity to this enormous lock gate under construction. Unless one sees it oneself, one will not easily believe that we are constructing such a large lock gate on our own resources.

The lock gate, when finished, will not only facilitate the development of river transport but also enable to solve the problem of water for the reclaimed tideland completely.

If a mountain is to be successful in economic construction, it must mobilize and use its own potentialities to the maximum and also develop economic and technical exchanges and cooperation with many other countries around the world.

Our Republic is developing these exchanges and cooperation not only with the socialist countries but also with the capitalist countries which make a friendly approach towards our country. With a view to developing them further with different countries throughout the world, we enacted the "Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Joint Venture" last year, and encourage joint venture with other countries in different fields – industry, construction, transport, science and technology, tourism, and so on. Since the promulgation of this law, many countries have made new requests for economic cooperation and technical exchange with our country. I think that this is a very good thing. We will always welcome all those countries that are friendly towards our country and wish to develop economic and technical exchanges and cooperation with our country, regardless of their ideology, ideas and systems. We will conduct economic cooperation and exchange with them on the principles of equality and mutual benefits.

We want Peaceful Reunification

Now, I shall give a brief answer to your question – what is the most serious question in my mind on the eve of the forthcoming 40th anniversary of the liberation of our country.

This year our people celebrate the 40th anniversary of national liberation. With the 40th anniversary approaching, all the people are afire with a high degree of political enthusiasm and the whole country is overflowing with delight.

The fervent enthusiasm of all the people and the delight of the whole country also inspire me with joy and delight.

If there is any question in the depth of my heart when greeting the 40th anniversary of national liberation, that will be the question of the cause to which I was dedicated when I took the road of revolution and which has not yet been completed. It was my father's last will for me that we must win the independence of Korea even if we have to fight from generation to generation.

I set on the revolution against the Japanese in my teens with a resolve to win back my lost country, to save our nation from the mire of miseries and to build a prosperous, independent and sovereign state on the soil of our beautiful 3,000-ri land. Our fighting

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written slogans reading "Release arrested students" and "Stop suppression of campuses."

One of the student defendants, denouncing the presence of plainclothes policemen in the courtroom, said that the trial was illegal and was being held in a terror atmosphere.

During the recesses in the afternoon, a group of the students, calling for resignation of Gen. Chon, demanded a public apology for the Kwangju Incident from the U.S. and the end of its support for the Chon junta.

Judge Li, failing even to identify defendants, the first procedure in any hearing, gave up that day's trial, saying "Today's hearing is over and the next one will be held on July 29" after one of 18 defense attorneys asked him to postpone the trial for two weeks.

Defendant Kim Min Sok, Chairman of the National Federation of Students Associations, was quoted as saying, "We refuse the trial until those responsible for the Kwangju Incident and the head of the U.S. administration make an apology for the incident."

He also pointed out that the "government" has reinforced a crackdown upon student activity in the wake of the USIS library seizure.

The court in Seoul was surrounded by more than 800 units of riot police.

In connection with the trial, strongman Chon, abruptly reshuffling his cabinet, fired the justice minister on July 16, named Kim Song Gi, who had once been special investigation chief of the Supreme Procurator's Office, as his successor.

Outgoing minister Kim Sok Ui took responsibility for the pandemonium in the trial, according to informed sources.

Meanwhile, in the first mass arrests of student activists since 1974 the south Korean authorities on July 18 illegally arrested 56 college students and designated 23 students as nation-wide wanted criminals.

Of those, 13 are on charges of violation of the harsh National Security Law and the rest of them are charged with anti-"government" demonstrations on campases and streets.

Seven others also have been under indictment, though without physical restriant.

The south Korean Prosecutor-General's Office characterized as a "hostile group" Sanmintu, an organization under the umbrella of the National Alliance of Students comprising 34 universities and colleges in south Korea. Those arrested students belong to this organization.

Mothers and relatives of the student defendants raise their fists, shouting for the release of their children in front of the Kwanghwamun police box on July 15 as they were blocked on their way to the American embassy following the trial. (Korea Times Photo)

3,877 Cases of Anti-U.S., Anti-"Gov." Actions In 15 Months

South Korean students waged anti-American, anti-"government" struggle of various forms on 3,877 occasion from March last year to the end of June this year, according to a report from Seoul.

They included 305 cases of street demonstrations, 159 cases of torch-light demonstrations at 42 universities, 169 cases of burning Chon Du Hwan and others in effigy at 46 universities, 703 cases of flame bottle throwing at 34 universities.

In the same period of various forms of struggle of 278 cases were waged at Seoul National University and nearly 1 million students participated in the struggle waged at many colleges and universities in Seoul and local areas.

The students punished more than 4,100 policemen and destroyed 6,520 pieces of police equipment of 11 kinds mobilized in the crackdown upon demonstrations.

The students attacked and destroyed 29 police boxes this year.

Police arrested, detained and passed penalties upon upwards of 9,220 students and disciplined or expelled 600 patriotic students at 33 universities for their struggle in 16 months.

These figures were disclosed in data published by the south Korean educational ministry on July 16.

Workers, Students Call for Free Trade Unions

Some 70 female workers of the U.S.-invested micro company in Inchon on July 8 occupied the office room of the chairman of the subsidized "Federation of Trade Unions" in Youido, Seoul, and held a sit-in, shouting "Stop suppression of Trade unions" and "Enforce 8-hour working hour", according to south Korean papers.

Earlier, on July 6, over 200 students of Seoul National, Korea, Yonsei and Sung Kyun Kwan universities waged a demonstration in defence of the independent trade unions of workers in Karibong-dong, Kuro District, Seoul.

They shouted "Stop suppression of trade unions" and scattered leaflets titled "To the Patriotic Citizens," papers published in Seoul reported.

On July 8, more than 100 students of Ehwa Women's University in Seoul held a meeting to denounce the authorities' suppression of rural activities of students and staged an all-night sit-in at the student hall on the campus.

S. Korea Comes First in Traffic Accident in World

The south Korean paper Dong-A Ilbo on June 21 reported about traffic accidents in south Korea, saying "South Korea comes first as ever in the world in the frequency of traffic accidents and death toll caused by them."

In recent years more than 200,000 people have died or got wounded annually in south Korea due to traffic accidents, according to the paper.

The paper said traffic accidents last year increased 4 times in their numbers, 2.4 times in death toll and 3.5 times in the number of the wounded above those of 1974, 10 years ago.

The frequency of traffic accidents and casualties per 10,000 automobiles in 1984 were reportedly 11-20 times that of Japan and 29 times that of the United States, the south Korean influential paper added.

The Malaysian paper Nanyang Siang Pau June 24 said south Korea comes first in the world in the death toll of traffic accidents.

Last year alone 134,335 traffic accidents took place in south Korea causing 7,468 deaths and 177,000 wounded, the paper noted.

The British paper Times also said on June 22 that south Korea comes first in the world in the death toll of traffic accidents.

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was beset with many a difficulty and involved heartbreaking sacrifices. The anti-Japanese revolution was a really arduous fighting. But we fought unyieldingly for 20 years, overcoming the difficulties and obstacles in our way by our own efforts, and finally succeeded in the historic cause of national liberation.

The whole land of Korea was in an ecstacy of being liberated, and all the nation rejoiced with deep emotions. Our people's joy of liberation, however, did not last long. On its liberation, our country was divided artificially by foreign forces.

When we were fighting in the mountains, eating in the wind and sleeping in the dew, we never thought, not even in a dream, that this situation would follow the liberation of our country. How was in conceivable that a beautiful Korea which is one stretch of land, and the homogeneous nation which had lived on the same land from olden time, would be bisected?

The division of the country and the nation after liberation has created many difficulties in our people's struggle to build a new democratic Korea and hampered a coordinated development of the country. Our desire to build a prosperous, independent and sovereign state has been realized only in half the territory of the country, and the ten-point programme of the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, and the 20-point platform which was published immediately after liberation, have been implemented only in the northern half of the Republic.

The past forty years have been a period of the century's most remarkable progress and prosperity for our people who are greeting the 40th anniversary of the liberation of their country. But, when they are viewed from the standpoint of whole nation, the past four decades have been a period of misfortunes and sufferings from national division. I always regret that we have not yet reunified the country and ended the tragic national division.

Not a single day has passed during the forty years since the country's liberation to this date, without the fact of the country's partition weighing on my mind, and without my thinking of relieving our people from their sufferings of national division.

During the past forty years, we have really done all that we can do to reunify the divided country. But our sincere efforts have not yet borne tangible fruit.

The longer the division of the country continues, the acuter the miseries and sufferings of our people are growing. Therefore, we want to hold the talks between the Red Cross societies of north and south and bring them to a success as to visit the separated families and relations to visit each other freely for the purpose of easing the sufferings of the divided nation even before the country is reunified. If both sides discuss the matter sincerely from the point of view of humanitarianism and national interests, they will be able to alleviate the sufferings of the separated families and relations even before the country is reunified.

If the north and the south open their doors and permit free visits, they will be able to bring an independent, peaceful reunification of the country sooner.

Certainly, many difficulties and obstacles are still standing in the way of national reunification.

Nevertheless, we cannot tolerate our single nation to be kept divided. We must reunify the country during our lifetime, come what may. We are making every effort in this direction. If the country is not reunified in our generation, it will surely be reunified in the era of Kim Jong Il who will continue to fight by carrying forward the cause.

On Kim Gu

In conclusion, I shall talk briefly in compliance with your request for my impression of Kim Gu.

Kim Gu lived in Hwanghae Province when he was young. Before liberation he was in an office of the "provisional government in Shanghai" where he became a notorious anti-communist by murdering many communists. In those days, communists felt a strong resentment at him.

He returned to south Korea after liberation. Through his secretary, he sent me a letter expressing his wish to meet me. I told his secretary that I would welcome him. Before he came over to north Korea to meet me, Kim Gu sent his secretary again to confirm our views of his past crimes. I said that we would start with a clean slate with him.

In this way Kim Gu crossed over the 38th parallel to enter north Korea in April 1948 and attended the north-south joint conference held under our auspices. Almost all the political parties and social organisations except the Syngman Rhee-controlled party in south Korea sent their representatives to the conference.

At that time I met and talked with Kim Gu on several occasions. He told me that when they were engrossed only in gossip in Shanghai, China, in bygone days, you, the general, fought with weapons to achieve national independence. Saying that he opposed communists because he did not understand them well, he apologized to me for this. We went on to say that the north Korean communists were different from those communists he had seen in the past and that he could fight hand in hand with the communists like us for the country's reunification. Kim Gu made a good speech at the north-south joint conference.

When returning to south Korea after the conference he said to me: "I want to stay in north Korea. But, if I do so, the reactionaries might spread a rumour that the north has detained me. That is why I will return. I will fight for the great unity of the nation back in south Korea."

Then, making me some requests he asked for an orchard with which to spend his remaining years when he came here again unable to fight on under difficulty in south Korea.

I promised to ask for paper and writing brushes to study although he was old, and suggested our resuming the supply of irrigation water to the south Korean peasants in Yonbaek plain. I promised him to meet all his requests. I told him that when he would come again to us after fighting back in south Korea I would let him live in comfort for the rest of his days, while tending an orchard. I said that I would give him paper and writing brushes, interpreting his wish for study as his desire to work conscientiously for the country and the nation. I also promised to ensure the resumption of irrigation water supplies which the peasants in Yonbaek plain wanted.

Soon after his return to south Korea Kim Gu was assassinated. It seems to me that U.S. imperialists and their stooges murdered him because he did not follow them.

So much for your questions.

I hope that you who have so far worked energetically for the reunification of our country will in future, too, as an eternal friend of ours, join in the efforts of our people to achieve the cause of national reunification.

On the Question of Korean Peace

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here are excerpts from speeches made by some of the participants of International Symposium on the Reunification of Korea and Peace in Asia held in Yokohama, Japan from July 6-8.

By Kim Chang Won, Head of the DPRK delegation, Director of the Institute of Philosophy at the Academy of Social Science:

In the face of 40th anniversary of independence day on Aug. 15, unfortunately Koreans face not Korea's reunification but tension and danger of a new war.

Exactly, this is the most serious point of the Korean question.

The most important prior condition for Korea's reunification is to remove danger of a new war and guarantee durable peace on the Korean Peninsula.

We, north and south Koreans, confront each other on both sides of the DMZ with a massive armaments.

So, the danger of a new war is not tomorrow's question but a realistic question of today.

In fact, war or peace is a more serious question for us than division or reunification.

The basic point of Korea's reunification is precisely peace. In order to realize reunification on the Korean Peninsula, we must safeguard peace.

Moreover, we can find a basis for Korea's reunification and for maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula in promoting mutual relations and diverse north-south cooperation and exchange.

We can't carry out mutual north-south cooperation and exchange smoothly without preconditions of detente and peace.

We can find this example in our experience in the 1970s, at the time of north-south dialogue. Then a member of the south Korean Red Cross Society delegation who visited Pyongyang found his aunt still alive, because he came from north Korea.

Yet, both the aunt and the nephew refused to see each other because the aunt thought the nephew who came as representative of the delegation, wasn't trustworthy while her nephew was afraid of inviting political misunderstanding from the government if he met his aunt.

This kind of problem can be applied to all the family members who live separately in north and south.

We can find a similar situation in economic affairs. In an atmosphere of distrust and tension, businessmen do not invest easily or refrain from investment because of anxiety about bankruptsy.

Therefore, for the sake of north-south cooperation and exchange, not only an end to confrontation and detente but also peace is indespensable.

The proposition that peace is the precondition for Korea's reunification also derives from mutual relationships between dialogue and peace.

North-south dialogue can become a contributory factor to Korea's reunification.

Actually it was stipulated in the first non-south agreement that north-south Red Cross talks should contribute to Korea's reunification.

In a word, dialogue and confrontation cannot consist with each other. Dialogue in the 1970s resulted in creating an unfavorable condition because it was "dialogue with confrontation", and subsequent dialogues resumed in the middle of the 1980s was interrupted by an unexpected accident at Panmunjom, and a large scale military maneuvers carried out on the basis of the standpoint that the partner was a potential enemy.

As mentioned above, guarantee of peace is a major key to the solution of the problem of peace.

Legally, even though 30 years have passed since the conclusion of the armistice agreement, the DPRK and the U.N. forces are still in a state of war.

In other words, in Korea, the armistice agreement, which should have been replaced by a peace treaty, still remains as it is.

In this situation, a fundamental measure is needed to put an end to the temporary cease-fire and set up durable peace in this land.

There are 2 problems which remain unsolved. The one which we must solve with the U.S., is to replace the armistice agreement with a peace treaty and the other which is one with south Korea, is to adopt a non-agression declaration.

To tell the truth, we can solve the peace problem on the Korean Peninsula only after we have solved these two problems simultaneously within the same framework.

The 3-way talks offered by the DPRK is a thorough peace proposal which aims to solve the peace problem related to our national desitny not by means of confrontation but through dialogue and agreement: to radically eliminate the possibility of war as well as a proposal to ease tension and prevent a war.

It is the DPRK and the U.S. that are parties to the armistice agreement. In addition, it is the forces of the DPRK, the U.S., and south Korea that confront severely in a state of cease-fire.

Conclusion of a peace treaty and adoption of a non aggression declaration through 3-way talks could be a legal measure for completely getting rid of military confrontation and a practical guarantee for creating a situation of durable peace.

A new proposal by the DPRK this time for north-south parliamentary talks is intended to open a new breakthrough for the peaceful solution of the Korean question, in view of the present situation in which 3-way talks have not been yet opened.

Then, why is the north-south parliamentary talks proposal made as an essential demand for the solution of the Korean question on peace?

At present, taking into consideration that 3-way talk hasn't yet been accepted by the U.S. or south Korea, we can't remain just bystanders.

If north-south parliamentary talks are realized and non-aggression declaration between us as we offer is adopted, we will be able to prevent a possible military conflict and all kinds of accidents and guarantee peace. In other words, we will be able to put an end to the abnormal situation in which we intimidate each other with misunderstanding and distrust between us.

Durable peace on the Korean Peninsula can be attained only by 3-way talks. In this sense, 3-way talks can't be replaced by north-south parliamentary talks.

But if a non aggression declaration made public at the proposed north-south parliamentary talks is adopted at high level north-south political talks in the next stage, we can create a firm precondition for peace on the Korean Peninsula, with the danger of war substantially reduced, for it will mean a renunciation of armament.

The DPRK will bear due responsibility for our national destiny, and contribute to the peace of Korea with love for peace.

Today, peace is the idea common not only to the Korean people but also to all people of the world.

So, whoever loves the idea of peace has a deep concern about peace and reunification of Korea which is closely related to the peace of Asia and of the world.

Nonviolent Global Transformation and Peaceful Korean Reunification

By Clemn D. Paige, Prof., University of Hawaii

The reunification proposals that are being put forth with increasing frequency and diversity by both North and South are products of Korean creativity, peacefulness, and great power understanding. They include the extraordinarily significant ten-point proposal for a "Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo" (1980), and he "Proposal for Twenty Pilot Projects for National Reconciliation and Democratic Unification" (1982). Both deserve serious discussion. Already they promise important contributions to solving problems of nonviolent global transformation.

Korean proposals to create a nuclear free zone, to neutralize the peninsula, to withdraw foreign forces, to demilitarize the zone of division, to eliminate military alliances, to reduce armed forces, to demobilize militia, to organize common security institutions, to end civilian military training, and other measures deserve to be considered very seriously as contributions to global demilitarization called for in the final document of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Disarmament in 1978. If Koreans can accomplish these tasks on the peninsula they can make profoundly significant contributions to liberation of humankind from threat and use of killing force.

The Korean demilitarization proposals are also extremely important for releasing economic resources to serve pressing human needs both within Korea and abroad. They can benefit not only Koreans directly but also all those who suffer among the distant suppliers and supporters of Korean militarization.

Other proposals to conduct mutually beneficial trade between the two parts of Korea, to open up transportation and communication, to establish a joint fisheries zone, to cooperate in developing natural resources, to share technology, to improve the standards of living of all Koreans, and to promote beneficial economic exchanges with all world nations offer important possibilities for a more satisfying and just economy not only in Korea but throughout the world. Korean efforts to achieve common security welfare in the context of nonviolent common security can contribute much to – as well as learn from – growing efforts to establish new beneficial economic relationships within and between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON).

The offer and acceptance of disaster relief assistance in the fall of 1984 already has provided an important example of peaceful mutual responsiveness to human needs. Increasingly determined efforts to reunite divided families promise a highly significant breakthrough in respect for human dignity. Additional proposals for exchanges in such fields as art, science, sports, and journalism; for joint research on national history; for creation of a joint tourism area; and for travel between North and South via Panmunjom all recognize the crucial importance of the variety of ways in which the dignity of common humanity may be affirmed.

As everywhere, the path toward toleration of the expression of political views that differ from science-based orthodoxy is a long and difficult one. The proposal to accept the existence of the political institutions of the other part of Korea without intent to destroy them by violence constitutes an important beginning. Each part will have to learn to tolerate peaceful criticism within itself as it tries credibly to claim the right to advance its views peacefully within the territory of the other. Peaceful political coexistence between and within the parts of Korea must be mutually reinforcing.

Fundamental to the achievement of freedom of expression in Korea as elsewhere will be principled commitment to the ethic of nonviolence by all. This includes both dissenters and those who seek to counter dissent. This is not just a pious ideal. If nonviolence were not the fundamental law of life, the human family and civilization itself would long ago have disappeared from the earth. Through proposals and actions that recognize the essential dignity of human life in all its aspects, Koreans can contribute greatly to the emergence of nonviolent global politics.

Koreans live in a beautiful land: peninsular earth, mountains, rivers, forests, seas, atmosphere, flowers, animals, birds, and fishes do not know that they have been divided. They are the life-sustaining heritage of the Korean people and a common treasure of all humankind. Every Korean proposal for cooperative action to preserve, restore, and enhance the natural environment against the ravages of military-industrial despoliation calls for global celebration. Such a proposal is that which calls for a joint study of flora, fauna, and the ecological system in the "demilitarized zone" between the present massive opposing armies. As Koreans join together to respect their environmental heritage, they must have the support of the peoples of China, Japan, the Soviet Union, and the United States as well as of other countries to succeed. Nature is not divided into nations. Recognition of the environmental unity of the Korean peninsula contributes to recognition of the ecological unity of the world.

The confederal proposal of 1980 has two great strengths: it affirms unity and recognizes diversity. It proposes to establish a dually constituted confederal institution to facilitate an all-Korean approach to problem-solving. At the same time it respects the given political, economic, social, and cultural realities of the two parts and their international relationships. The problem is similar to that confronted by the United Nations – how to engage all humankind in the advancement of its own well being, without coercion and with respect for the autonomy and dignity of its members.

The great challenge to Korean creativity is to strengthen the nonviolent need-responsive capabilities of the Confederal (or other unifying) institution, while simultaneously demilitarizing South and North, respecting their identity, and encouraging reciprocal learning of ways to realize the profoundly significant values of freedom and equality that have inspired their development since 1945.

The various proposals for meetings among leaders, establishment of communications, exchanging of missions, drafting of constitutions, holding of elections, and for engaging foreign governments and peoples in dialogues are all innovative efforts to create problem-solving processes that are responsive to Korean needs. That they are made at all is evidence of aspirations to find peaceful ways to overcome division. The fact that they are sometimes met with fear and distrust is a legacy of experience with violent politics from which liberation must be achieved in the Revolution of Fraternity.

The fact that people in the two parts of Korea are reaching out to establish relationships, between themselves and the four proximate powers, and with all the peoples of the earth is an encouraging contribution to establishment of nonviolent processes of global problem-solving.

The Importance of Neutrality for Peace Illustrated by the Case of Austria in Connection With the Peaceful Reunification of Korea

By Dr. Kurt Regner
Lawyer (Austria).

Now a few words should be said about the importance of the policy of neutrality in the international arena:

As I mentioned before, Austria is a small country. We do not overestimate our possibilities to work for paece and security in a restless world. What are Austria's possibilities as a neutral state in the field of international politics?

a) Austria finds herself on the point of confrontation (Schnittlinie) of two social systems. Her most important endeavour must be to maintain good relations with all her neighbouring states, including with the Eastern countries Hungary, CSSR, Yougoslavia and also with the German Democratic Republic and Poland. With the Soviet Union the relations are friendly and practically without any serious problems. Without regard to the different social systems there exist intensive economic and cultural relations, which are constantly being improved and enlarged, even if on occasion (fortunately rare) difficulties arise.

Our Minister for Foreign Affairs, Leopold Gratz, said only recently at an international symposium about "30 Years State Treaty" (on May 13, 1985) that

"policy towards the neighbours should not be conceived as questioning the loyalties of the neighbouring countries to its economic, political and military alliances" (Pakt-system).

This policy of good relations with neighbours was undoubtedly made easier by the neutrality policy.

b) I mentioned already the importance of the State Treaty and the neutrality policy for the détente in Europe. Indeed, the State Treaty was the first effective sign of détente, as the anachronism of the super-powers at least in the region of Austria was overcome and the basis for further dialogue between the super powers was provided. Unfortunately, nowadays we have to live with a new form of cold war. Gratz said at the symposium on this subject:

"Just at a time of increased tensions between the super powers, the neutral and non-aligned countries have to play an important role."

Should we not envisage at this point a possible solution of the Korean problem? It is beyond any doubt that a confederation of Korea – neutral or simply non-aligned – would be a peace-strengthening force in the world.

c) Another point in this connection is the rôle played by Austria as a member of the United Nations or at conferences like those in Helsinki (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, CSCE) and its follow-up meetings at Belgrade and Madrid.

"Austria cannot remain indifferent as to whether the policy of détente comes to an end, with the country again overshadowed by a military and political line of demarcation, or whether the process of détente is carried forward and Austria is able to continue the fulfilment of its national and international tasks in a climate of prosperity and security."

In Madrid, the efforts to avoid the breaking-up of the conference were successful by a compromise introduced by the neutral and non-aligned states, where Austria played its part.

d) There is another advantage for a state in being neutral. Vienna succeeded to become one of the United Nations' three official seats. The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and UNIDO (United Nations' Organization for Industrial Development) and several other UN organizations have their seats in the newly built Vienna International Centre. Numerous conferences took place in Vienna. e.g. SALT 1 and 2, disarmament negotiations like MBFR, all conferences on the codification and development of International Law etc., all this owing to the neutral position of Austria.

e) Another sign of Austria's active neutrality policy is her participation in peace-keeping operations like sending Austrian medical teams to the Congo in the sixties; at present, there are Austrian units (within the UN forces) in the Middle East and in Cyprus.

f) Finally, one further point should be mentioned, because there is a discussion on it taking place in Austria. The State Treaty prohibits the possession, production and use of certain special weapons, especially of atomic arms. Austria therefore became an atomic-arms-free zone within the meaning of International Law. Please, compare the efforts of the Scandinavian countries, on the Balkan and other regions to be declared atomic-arms-free zones.

According to publications in leading US papers, the US forces in South Korea stationed atomic arms there. Why not declare the whole Korean Peninsula a zone free of atomic arms?

So the question remains: Is it correct to talk about a model of Austrian Permanent Neutrality for other countries in general or for the Korean Peninsula in particular?

This question cannot and should not be answered in the affirmative nor in the negative. It is beyond any doubt that the situation and conditions in Austria at the time of occupation by the allies were quite different from what they are in Korea today. Austria had a Government and a parliament for the whole country. She was independent to a certain degree. The constitution of 1920 was valid again since 1945.

It is entirely and exclusively up to the people of any given country to decide its policy in foreign affairs. Neutrality is not a magic policy that has only to be declared and peace will be preserved or restored, or anything like it. It all depends on the realities of the given political and military situation in the region. There may be, however, a very few and certainly important features, which can be applied to other countries forcibly divided.

As to the peaceful reunification of Korea, I should like to draw your attention to the efforts of the DPRK and especially to the proposals of President Kim Il Sung, at first to create a confederation, each part maintaining its respective social system. Such a confederation could pursue a policy of neutrality, at least belong to the non-aligned movement.

Tripartite Talks for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea

By Kim Jin Ki, Deputy Head, East Asia Division, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations

A North-South joint statement was simultaneously published in Pyongyang and Seoul on July 4, 1972, confirming the three principles of national reunification (i.e., independence, peace and national unity), thus laying a solid foundation for the forthcoming North-South dialogue. Since the publication of the joint statement, many conferences between the two sides have been held in Pyongyang, Seoul, and Panmunjom, such as meetings of the North-South Coordinating Committee (NSCC), the Red Cross talks, preparatory talks for a meeting of the prime ministers of the two sides, talks on economic and physical cultural exchanges and so on. Since last May, North-South dialogue entered a new phase, some progress has been made in the economic and the Red Cross talks, and North-South parliamentary talks are scheduled to be soon held. The emergence of such a situation is beneficial for the cause of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, but also for the relaxation of tension on the Korean Peninsula and the maintainance of peace and stability in Northeast Asia and the Asian-Pacific region as a whole.

In sum, "tripartite talks" is a form of conference proposed by the U.S. Administration, and reconfirmed in the joint communique of the U.S. and south Korean top leaders. Taking this U.S.-south Korean stance into consideration, the DPRK government brought up precisely this past U.S. proposal.

The tripartite talks proposal brought up by the DPRK is both reasonable and feasible whether in terms of its form, content or concrete steps.

The division of Korea into two parts as well as the national separation to date, stem primarily from external interference and separation-oriented policies. The United States, acting out of its strategic needs, not only refused to withdraw its troops from south Korea but also reinforced its military posture there by deploying nuclear weapons there, beefing up the south Korean military strength, and holding annually two-and-a-half-month-long joint American-south Korean "Team Spirit" military exercises with the participation of nearly two hundred thousand strong American and south Korean troops equipped with modern military weapons including the nuclear-powered air carriers. This should be judged as the chief external factor stimulating tension in the Korean Peninsula. Consequently, if only the United States and the Soviet Union could refrain from creating tension in Northeast Asia and could play their role in helping to shape an international environment conducive to the peaceful solution of the Korean problem, if only the United States would be ready to sign a peace agreement with the DPRK government declaring legally the termination of armistice in Korea, and gradually withdraw its troops from Korea, then the source threatening peace in Korea and obstructing peaceful reunification of Korea would be eliminated, and the peaceful solution of the Korean problem would also be assured without fail.

While demanding a peace treaty with the United States, the DPRK hopes at the same time to sign a non-agression statement with the south Korean authorities. On January 18, 1974, President Pak Chong Hui proposed that a "nonaggression agreement" be concluded between the two parts of Korea. If a "nonaggression declaration" or a "nonaggression agreement" could be signed between the two parties, then, it would be possible for the two sides to reduce by a big margin their armed forces and their military spending, and the problems arising from the withdrawal of U.S. troops stationed in south Korea could also be easily solved, and a sustained peace in Korea could certainly be realized in the process. Under such circumstances, the peaceful reunification of Korea would eventually be realized by transcending differences in ideologies and political systems, in pursuit of North-South solidarity through dialogues and exchanges.

Since the cessation of the Korean War, the entire Korean people have been unanimously calling for peaceful unification through democratic consultation and cooperation, resolutely opposing to the employment of force for fear it should drag the nation once again into an internecine calamity. It is in compliance with the people's demand and the historical trend, that the North has initiated a series of rational overtures and propositions. It has spared no effort for a peaceful solution of the Korean question. In 1957, it proposed to cease the military build-up and arms race and to reduce the armed force of each side to 100,000 or less. In October 1980, President Kim Il Sung at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea outlined a program for establishing the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and a ten-point program for the reunification of Korea, he emphasized that neither side should impose its own will on the other, nor should one swallow up the other, and both sides should live in harmony on the basis of mutual recognition of the ideology and political system of the other side. In repudiation of the cliche of the "threat from the North's aggression", President Kim Il Sung has reiterated in recent years that the North has neither the intention nor the strength to attack the South. As a common saying goes, peace will benefit both, and war will damage all. Foresighted politicians and scholars sincerely hoping for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula should view the situation objectively and not lose sight of the earnest efforts on the part of the North in promoting the peaceful reunification. They should avoid fuelling suspicions lest the cardinal cause of reducing tensions on the Peninsula be harmed.

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Reunified, Neutralized Korea Would Have Tremendous Impact on World Politics: Rapoport

As a U.S.-educated scientist, Mr. Anatol Rapoport teaches peace studies at Toronto University as a professor emeritus. Calling himself an "abolitionist",he also serves as the president of Science for Peace, Canadian-based organization of scientists. Professor Rapoport recently visited to Japan to attend the International Symposium on the Reunification of Korea and Peace in Asia held in Yokohama from July 6-8. Acting as an honorary chairman at the general session of the symposium, he stressed the significance of the emergence of a reunified and neutralized Korea. He sat down to discuss the problem in greater detail with a staff reporter of The People's Korea. Here are excerpts from the interview and his prepared speech for the symposium:

On the Prospect of Korean Reunification

My view on this prospect is based on the assumption that at least one of the superpowers is not really interested in ending the arms race by some sort of arms control, much less in starting a disarmament race of the sort envisaged in the GRIT programme.

In my opinion, the principal driving force behind the arms race, at least on the American side, is what I call the technological imperative. The real ideology governing the compulsions of the American ruling elite is neither democracy nor capitalism but technolatry. The war machine is an object of veneration in America not only as a symbol of strength (with which encrusted thinking habits identify national security) but also as a product of American know-how.

If my conjectures are correct, other sources of initiative to set mankind on the road to peace must be sought. It is in this sense that actions directed toward the ultimate reunification of Korea attain a special significance.

Reunification of Korea would have a symbolic significance as a political act aimed at "healing" the wounds of World War II. Perhaps reunification is seen in this light as a possible start of a GRIT process on the political level and as such welcomed by those who emphasize the primacy of political over the military factors of the Cold War. Surely an attempt in that direction would be worthwhile.

On the Significance of Neutrality of Reunified Korea

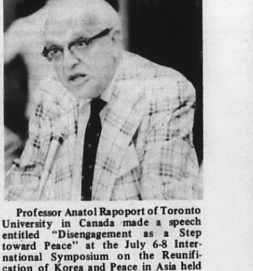
I believe that all the countries should be neutral. I don't believe in military alliances. I think that the creation of blocs of military alliances aggravate the war danger. Because something happens between members of the two blocs while others must enter the war, too. I think war alliances threaten other countries. They are the source of insecurity. If Korea is reunified, it should be a neutral and non-aligned country. These countries should show the world an example of how the country should live in peace.

A unified, peaceful, and neutral Korea would add significantly to the relative weight of the uncommitted countries in international affairs, not only because of its own importance as a populous country with a rapidly growing economic potential but also, as has already been pointed out, as a symbol of a trend toward containing or quarrantining, if you will, the Cold War. It is time to realize that most people on this planet live neither in the United States nor in the Soviet Union.

To be sure, if a nuclear war erupts between the superpowers, neutrality will not protect any one. In all likelihood such a war spells death for the innocent as well as for the guilty. But if a disengagement movement gathers momentum, a new force in international politics may be generated. The emergence of a unified and "militantly" neutral seems like an excellent beginning of such a movement.

The rapidly growing economic potential of Korea, still further enhanced by demilitarization, would put that country into a leading position in the non-aligned world.

The emergence of a unified and neutralized Korea would have the tremendous impact on the present state of world politics. That the impact would be positive I have no doubt.



Professor Anatol Rapoport of Toronto University in Canada made a speech entitled "Disengagement as a Step toward Peace" at the July 6-8 International Symposium on the Reunification of Korea and Peace in Asia held in Yokohama, Japan. (PK photographer Kang Jong Sok)

(Continued from page 1)

the two social systems of the north and the south co-existing, as a most reasonable way of achieving peaceful reunification," said the President.

When Pyongyang proposed to reunify the country through establishment of a Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo in October 1980, it virtually gave up the idea of "a reunified socialist Korea."

The proposed north-south confederation in which the existing political, economic and social systems of both sides would remain as they are, was a significant departure from the previous reunification policy.

A bi-system reunified Korea, Pyongyang thinks, should be a neutral, non-aligned, independent and nuclear-free peaceful nation that would benefit the interests of all nations involved on the peninsula.

High-level North-South Talks Possible

President Kim, in the interview, reaffirmed that if the north-south dialogues proceeded successfully, they would culminate in a high-level political negotiation between the two sides.

But, he said before such a negotiation, an atmosphere of national reconciliation and trust should be created and mutual understanding promoted through manifold low-level talks between north and south, so as to lay a basis for fundamental agreement.

"No problem can be solved simply because the high authorities of north and south sit face to face, and if this is the case the sitting together will be meaningless. If sitting face to face, they ought to achieve good success in providing a decisive turn in the solution of the reunification question and thus answer the expectations of the whole nation who are aspiring to reunification," stated the President.

Three-Way Talks Hold Key to Peace and Reunification

Mr. Kim restressed the need for the DPRK, the United States and south Korea to hold talks in order to ease tension and ensure peace in Korea and create basic conditions for independent and peaceful national reunification.

The United States has a major responsibility in removing the danger of war in Korea as it has stationed its troops in south Korea for forty years, having the operational control over the south Korean army. It is also a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement.

The south Koreans who are directly responsible for the tension created in Korea are allowed to participate in the talks "on an equal basis."

The logic of three-way talks is clear: no Soviet troops have been in north Korea since 1948, no Chinese troops since 1958, neither do they deploy nuclear weapons in the north, only the U.S. does so. Therefore the initiative should clearly be taken by the Americans.

"When the Armistice Agreement is replaced by a peace agreement to be signed by our Republic and the United States at the tripartite talks and a declaration of non-aggression is adopted between north and south, U.S. troops will be withdrawn from south Korea, the root cause of war eliminated in the Korean Peninsula and bright prospect opened for the solution of the Korean question," said Mr. Kim.

Step-by-Step Approach to Economic Development

In the interview the President said that workers in the economic sectors are now hard at work preparing for a new long-term plan and that the money needed to carry out the plan will be secured on a self-reliant basis.

He said the DPRK will solve the problem of the funds by exporting such underground resources as lead, zinc, gold, silver and other nonferrous metals.

He said that his country does not want to be like south Korea whose foreign debts reach $50 billion. "It is not interesting to see a 'high degree of growth' even by becoming indebted to other countries. We do not want to jump up to a high eminence at a leap in economic construction on the strength of foreign capital. We are going to climb steadily, step by step, by our own efforts," said the DPRK President.

However, he did not rule out international economic cooperation. He said the DPRK is eager to develop economic and technical exchange and cooperation with many countries of the world, including socialist and capitalist countries.

Mr. Kim explained the joint venture law was enacted in hopes of encouraging joint venture with other countries in different fields – industry, construction, transport, science and technology, tourism.

He said since the promulgation of the law, many countries have made new requests for economic cooperation and technical exchange with the DPRK.

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Korea concurred in principle with the exchange of separated families and art troupes sometime in September.

However, the two sides disagreed on the size of the visiting groups and other technical matters concerning the historical event.

Three negotiators respectively from Pyongyang and Seoul met at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission at the truce village of Panmunjom in accordance with an agreement reached at the 8th full-dress Red Cross talks in Seoul last May.

Suggesting at the first round contact the visiting groups to be called "Red Cross Art Troupe and Home-Visiting Group" respectively, Pak Yong Su of the northern Red Cross proposed that each group be made up of the Red Cross chief and 50 working officials accompanying him, 300 artists, 300 homevisitors, 50 reporters, 700 in all, and that the period of its stay in the other side's area be set at three nights and four days between September 5 and 15.

However, southern delegate Song Yong Dae suggested that each hometown visiting group be composed of 300 persons, 100 art performers, 100 pressmen and 50 to 60 support personnel, 550-560 in total and visit the other's area through September 26 from September 20.

Proposing that each art troupe choose a program for its show as it thinks convenient, Pak of the north put forth a proposal that the places of performance be chosen on the principle of reciprocity, with three or four performances given, which should be relayed live through television and radio.

In order to check the facilities for the performances in advance, 3 technical experts with 2 Red Cross officials should be sent to the other's performance sites 2 weeks ahead of the exchange, staying 4 days there, according to Pyongyang's proposal.

The DPRK side also picked Pyongyang and Seoul, the capital cities as the places of visit by the home-visiting groups while the south Koreans proposed that hometowns of visitors be the destination.

At the July 15 contact, Pyongyang maintained the position that equal status should be attached to the exchange of art troupes, their performance and the exchange of "home-visiting groups", as agreed at the 8th Red Cross conference.

But, the south Korean side insisted on unilaterally enlarging the size of the "home-visiting group" proposed by itself while reducing the size of the art troupe proposed by the DPRK side. This was contrary to the agreement.

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Under the pretext that North-South direct dialogue is "a crucial step of easing tensions", the U.S. Administration evades the U.S. troop withdrawal and conclusion of a peace treaty with the North. As a matter of fact, conclusion of a peace treaty and signing of a nonaggression declaration through tripartite talks to remove U.S.-Korean and inter-Korean antagonisms are precisely the prerequisite to and critical step toward the peaceful reunification of Korea, devoid of which, the North-South dialogue can not be assured of success. Once the situation becomes strained, any progress derived from the dialogue can be reversed. This has been proved by the record of the past thirteen-year North-South dialogue since July 4, 1972 joint communique. Hence, it can be seen that the initial steps must be the search for ways of easing the tense situation and breaking through the deadlock of the previous dialogue. Otherwise, no plan can be accomplished no matter how perfect it may be.

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